

REMARKS

The interview with examiners Bradley T. King and Jack Lavinder on June 19, 2003 is acknowledged with appreciation. The prior art, claims and rejections of record were discussed and agreement was not reached, however as stated in the examiner's interview summary the examiner would consult with the examining expert in the art.

This Amendment amends claims 1, 12 and 15. Claims 2 and 14 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein.


Independent claims 1 and 12 recite a vibratory conveying apparatus including a bed, drive springs, inclined stabilizers and rotatable eccentric weights adapted to rotate about axes generally perpendicular to the direction the material is conveyed and spaced along the direction the material is conveyed. The prior art Dumbaugh patent (No. 4,149,627) does not teach or suggest plural pairs of rotatable eccentric weights and axes as recited in claims 15 and 30. The secondary reference to Rosenstrom (No. 6,024,210) is directed to driven eccentric weights and would not have been combinable with Dumbaugh to arrive at the free-wheeling eccentric weight arrangement in present claim 30. The secondary reference to Venanzetti (No. 3,407,670) is directed to offset vibrating eccentric weights which apply a torque and would not have been combinable with Dumbaugh's eccentric weight arrangement which does not apply a torque, to arrive at the free-wheeling eccentric weight arrangement in present claim 30.

Independent claim 15 recites a method of vibrating a conveying apparatus including providing a bed, drive springs, stabilizers, motors and rotatable eccentric weights adapted to rotate about axes generally perpendicular to the direction the material is conveyed and spaced along the direction the material is conveyed and operating the motors and weights to accumulatively synchronize and accumulatively add output forces. Dumbaugh, Rosenstrom and Venanzetti taken alone or in combination would not have taught or suggested the method as recited in claim 15 at least because they do not teach or suggest providing the arrangement of claim 15 and operating to accumulatively synchronize and accumulatively add output forces.

If there are any remaining issues the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be promptly resolved.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (1112-1017.1).

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG



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RBL/sld